



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2110 Ironwood Pkwy., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 (208) 769-1422

James E. Risch, Governor  
Toni Hardesty, Director

July 12, 2006

Prospective WAG Member  
Address  
Address

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

This letter is to determine your interest in serving on a Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) for the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. Duties of a North Fork WAG will include assisting with the planning of improvement projects related to the existing North Fork sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and aiding in the development of metals TMDLs for Beaver Creek and Prichard Creek. DEQ is required to complete these metals TMDLs by 2007.

But before going further, let me introduce myself. My name is Glen Rothrock and I have worked in the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office for 15 years. A good deal of that time has been work in Bonner County. The last three years my geographic area has been the Coeur d'Alene Basin. My current position is DEQ Coordinator of the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan. My duties include working in Coeur d'Alene Basin watersheds where streams and rivers have been determined as "water quality impaired" (i.e. placed on the federal Clean Water Act §303(d) list of impaired water bodies), and where TMDLs have been developed (primarily for sediment). As such, I have inherited the initial North Fork TMDL work conducted by Geoff Harvey (sediment TMDL completed in 2002), which was developed in conjunction with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) functioning as a North Fork WAG. After talking to John Snider, chair of the CAC, he agreed that forming a new WAG with more local ties to the North Fork would be appropriate.

TMDL implementation planning for the North Fork has actually begun in the way of securing an EPA grant approved through the Coeur d'Alene Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission. The grant project is to conduct a watershed assessment of the North Fork to determine significant sediment sources, and to assess the role that hydrologic modifications may have had on stream and river impairment. This project is meant to be a resource for implementation planning by a WAG. With the aid of a Technical Advisory Team led by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), a private contracting firm, Watershed Professionals Network (WPN) was selected to perform the grant project. Initial work of WPN has been a "data mining" exercise to collect and summarize past information on the North Fork that has been collected by the USFS and others. This includes past improvement projects within the watershed. We anticipate the WAG to add further information to this summary of known information, and to interact with WPN as they conduct their watershed assessment work.

By Idaho code §39-3601 *et seq.*, DEQ is given the task of facilitating the process of TMDL implementation planning and pollutant reduction projects to bring §303(d) listed streams and rivers into compliance with Idaho Water Quality Standards. This is done in partnership with other State agencies, the land owners/land managers (primarily private and USFS in the North Fork), and a WAG. A 2005 amendment to §39-3601 *et seq.* (House Bill No. 145), now requires formation of WAGs in TMDL watersheds, and clarifies the duties of a WAG. The formation and membership of a WAG must initially be

Name  
July 12, 2006  
Page Two

approved by the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group, and then formally assigned by the Director of DEQ. Members of a WAG shall be representative of the industries and interests affected by the management of a particular watershed, and shall, where appropriate, include a representative from each of the following industries or groups:

- a. Agriculture
- b. Mining
- c. Point source discharges
- d. Forest products
- e. Local government
- f. Livestock
- g. Indian tribes, for areas within reservation boundaries
- h. Water-based recreation
- i. Environmental interests, and
- j. The land managing or regulatory agencies with an interest in the management of that watershed and the quality of the water bodies within it.

DEQ wants to ensure that a North Fork WAG has good representation of private landowners and businesses with direct ties to the North Fork River system and watershed lands.

At this point in time we are not necessarily trying to fill specific WAG slots, but rather to determine who would be willing to serve on a WAG for the North Fork. Please fill out and return the enclosed WAG questionnaire (with the stamped, self addressed envelope). Indicate if you would be willing to volunteer time and effort to serve on the WAG, or please return the questionnaire if you are not interested. If you feel that you would represent a specific membership category listed above, please indicate that on the questionnaire. Initially, the WAG may meet on a once-a-month basis, but the goal would be to have planning meetings no more frequently than quarterly.

Also, if you have someone else in mind who might consider serving on this WAG, would you please indicate that person on the questionnaire. I am working with Bill Rust, who is a member of the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group, and he has supplied me with an initial contact list. The list needs more in the way of local citizens and interests within and near the North Fork watershed.

Thank you very much for consideration of becoming a WAG member. If you have any questions please contact me by email ([glen.rothrock@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:glen.rothrock@deq.idaho.gov)), or by phone (666-4623).

Sincerely,

Glen Rothrock  
DEQ Coordinator – Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan